



Utah State Law Library

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Research Guide: Utah Statutory Codes

§1 Introduction

A statutory code is a compilation of the laws passed by the legislature of the state or territory, grouped together by subject or title. Statutory codes can be called many different names, including statutes, code, laws, compiled laws, revised code, and revised statutes.

Codes can be annotated or unannotated:

An **annotated code** has additional information provided by the publisher including collateral references, compiler's notes, cross-references, effective date notes, history notes, and notes to court decisions interpreting the statute. All of these references can be helpful in understanding what a statute means.

An **unannotated code** contains only the text of the law itself. An unannotated code has limited utility for a researcher who needs more than just the law.

Laws change. Unless you are doing historical research, **always** make sure the version of the law you're relying on is current.

- A print code is updated with pocket part supplements in the back of bound volumes, or separate supplements shelved next to the bound volume.
- Some print code sets, such as the *Utah Code Unannotated*, are reissued every year. Check the spine or copyright page to see how current the set is.
- Check the state legislature's website to see if it has made or is considering making changes to the law.
- Check your statute number in an electronic citation system such as Shepard's (Lexis) or KeyCite (Westlaw) to make sure it's still good law. Utah's law libraries offer free access to one or both of these citator services.

§2 Historical Codes

§2.1 State of Deseret

Before Utah was established as a territory by Congress in 1850, it was known as the State of Deseret, and had its own provisional government complete with a constitution¹ and laws.²

¹ Constitution of the State of Deseret (January 15, 1850)

² Ordinances of the State of Deseret, published as Appendix B of Dale L. Morgan, *The State of Deseret*, Logan: Utah State University Press (1987).

§2.1.1 Compilation, 1851

Laws and ordinances of the State of Deseret (Utah): compilation 1851, being a verbatim reprint of the rare original edition, with an appendix. Salt Lake City: Shepard Book Company, 1919.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

§2.2 Territory of Utah

Utah became a territory in 1850.³

§2.2.1 Compilation, 1855

Acts, resolutions and memorials, passed at the several annual sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the territory of Utah, to which is prefixed: the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of the Confederation, the Ordinance of 1787, the Constitution of the United States, and amendments thereto, the naturalization laws, the constitution of the provisional state of Deseret, the Deseret laws, and the Organic act of Utah. Published by virtue of an act approved Jan. 19, 1855. Great Salt Lake City: Joseph Cain, public printer, 1855.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

§2.2.2 Compilation, 1866

Acts, resolutions and memorials, passed at the several annual sessions, of the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Utah, to which is prefixed the Declaration of independence, the Articles of the confederation, the Ordinance of 1787, the Constitution of the United States, and amendments thereto, the naturalization laws, and the Organic act of Utah, and with which is embodied a number of law forms. Published by virtue of an act approved Jan. 19, 1866. Great Salt Lake City: Henry McEwan, public printer, 1866.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

§2.2.3 Compilation, 1870

Acts, resolutions and memorials, passed at the several annual sessions, of the Legislative assembly of the territory of Utah, from 1851 to 1870 inclusive, to which is prefixed the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of the Confederation, the Ordinance of 1787, the Constitution of the United States, and amendments thereto, the naturalization laws, and the Organic Act of Utah, and with which is embodied a number of law forms. Compiled and indexed by virtue of an act approved February 18, 1870. Salt Lake City: Joseph Bull, public printer, 1870.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

§2.2.4 Compiled Laws, 1876

The compiled laws of the Territory of Utah: containing all the general statutes now in force, to which is prefixed the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, Organic Act of Utah, and laws of congress especially applicable to this Territory. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Steam Printing Establishment, 1876.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

³ An Act to Establish a Territorial Government for Utah, ch.51 §9, 9 Stat. 453, 455 (September 9, 1850).

§2.2.5 Compiled Laws, 1888

The compiled laws of Utah, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States and statutes of the United States locally applicable and important. Salt Lake City: H. Pembroke, 1888.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

General index to the Statutes of Utah, including vols. I and II of the Compiled Laws of 1888, the session laws of 1890, and the session laws of 1892. Salt Lake City: Press of the Irrigation Age, 1892.

Available online: J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Collections: Utah Historical Statutes
<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/uthisstat>

§2.3 State of Utah

Utah became a state in 1896⁴

§2.3.1 Revised Statutes, 1898

The revised statutes of the State of Utah in force Jan. 1, 1898. Lincoln: State Journal Co., Printers, 1897.

The first statutory compilation of the new State of Utah (attained that status 1896). Includes annotations.

Revision of code proposals. Utah Code Commission, 1897. (Series 1248)

Held by Utah State Archives.

Proposed revisions to the Utah Code as presented to the legislature by the Code Commission.

§2.3.2 Compiled Laws, 1907

The compiled laws of the state of Utah, 1907: compiled, annotated, and published by authority of an act of the Legislature, by James T. Hammond, Grant H. Smith, compilation commissioners. Together with the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of the state of Utah, the Enabling act, and the naturalization laws. Salt Lake City: Press of Skelton Publishing Co., 1908.

This annotated code was not a wholesale revision of the 1898 code. Rather, the commissioners had the authority to incorporate new laws, delete repealed laws, and correct references and typographical, grammar and punctuation errors.⁵

§2.3.3 Compiled Laws, 1917

The compiled laws of the state of Utah, 1917 ... Compiled, annotated, and published by authority of an act of the Legislature by Allen T. Sanford, Richard B. Thurman, compilation commissioners. Together with the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of the state of Utah, the Enabling act, and the naturalization laws and regulations. Salt Lake City: Century Printing Co., 1919.

This annotated code was not a wholesale revision of the 1907 code. As with the 1907 revision, the commissioners had the authority to incorporate new laws, delete repealed laws, and correct references and typographical, grammar and punctuation errors.⁶

⁴ Admission of Utah as a State, Proclamation No. 9, 29 Stat. 876 (January 4, 1896).

⁵ Laws of Utah, ch.3 (1907).

⁶ Laws of Utah, ch.6 (1917).

§2.3.4 Revised Statutes, 1933

Revised statutes of Utah, 1933. Kaysville: Inland Printing Co., 1933.

This is the first substantial revision of the code since 1898. Work was authorized by the legislature in 1927⁷ with supplemental acts in 1929⁸ and 1931.⁹

1939 supplement to the Utah revised statutes of 1933: containing all laws of a general nature passed by all regular and special sessions from 1933 to 1937, both inclusive. Annotated with all the Utah decisions from where the annotations left off in the 1933 revision to 82 Pacific second. Denver: Courtwright Publishing Co., 1939.

Proposed revision of the Utah statutes as reported to the Legislature of the State of Utah at its nineteenth regular session by the Code Commission. Kaysville: Inland Printing Co., 1931.

The report of the Code Commission is in the form of a proposed bill to revise the statutes.

The note included prior to the text indicates: "Comments touching substantial changes made and so forth will be printed separately and accompany this report."

Report of the Legislative Code Committee to the special session of the Legislature, 1933.

[Kaysville: Inland Printing Co.], 1933.

Contents include Report of the Code Committee and the text of the proposed revised code.

Report of the Code Committee found at the front of the volume includes a discussion of the history of the code since statehood and title-by-title explanations of the proposed revisions.

Revision of code proposals. Utah Code Commission, 1931-32. (Series 1248)

Held by Utah State Archives.

Proposed revisions to the Utah Code as presented to the legislature by the Code Commission.

§2.3.5 Utah Code Annotated, 1943

The Utah code annotated, 1943: published December 31, 1942, by authority of an act of the Legislature, effective January 2, 1943. Salt Lake City: The Legislature, 1942-1943.

A compilation – not a revision - based on the revised statutes of 1933. Annotated by the editorial staff of Callaghan and Company. Includes cross references to "closely similar" statutory provisions of California, Idaho, Montana and Iowa as well as the "more important" decisions from those states.¹⁰

§3 Current Codes

§3.1 Annotated Codes

Utah code annotated: 1953.

This is the most recent revision of the Utah Code, and reorganized and renumbered the 1943 code. The 26-volume hardbound set is updated with annual pocket parts and irregular replacement volumes. Since 1953 the publisher has changed several times:

Indianapolis: Allen Smith Co., 1953-1985

Charlottesville: Michie, 1986-1997

Charlottesville: Lexis Law Publishing, 1998-1999

⁷ Laws of Utah, ch.16 (1927).

⁸ Laws of Utah, ch.37 (1929).

⁹ Laws of Utah, ch.61 (1931).

¹⁰ The Utah Code Annotated, 1943. Preface, p. vi.

Charlottesville: Lexis Publishing, 2000
Charlottesville: LexisNexis, 2001-

West's Utah code annotated. [St. Paul]: Thomson/West, 2004- .
This 30-volume hardbound set is updated with annual pocket parts.

§3.2 Unannotated Codes

Utah code: complete through the ... session of the ... legislature. Provo: Code-Co, 1982-1988
No longer published.

Utah code unannotated. 1988-.

The 5-volume softbound set is completely republished annually. The publisher has changed several times:

Charlottesville: Michie, 1988-1997
Charlottesville: Lexis Law Publishing, 1998-1999
Charlottesville: Lexis Publishing, 2000
Charlottesville: LexisNexis, 2001-

§3.3 Annotations

Utah code annotations. Provo: Code-Co, 1990-2003.
Annual volume with bi-weekly supplements. No longer published.

§4 Online Codes

§4.1 Legislature's Website

Current code only; unannotated.
<http://le.utah.gov/>, select **Utah Code/Constitution**

§4.2 Lexis

UTCODE	Current annotated code
UTXXXX	Annotated codes 1991-, where XXXX is year

§4.3 Westlaw

UT-ST	Current unannotated statutes
UT-STM	Current unannotated statutes published by Lexis
UT-ST-ANN	Current annotated statutes
UT-STM-ANN	Current annotated statutes published by Lexis
UT-ST-IDX	Index to current code
UT-STANNXX	Annotated codes 2004-, where XX is 2-digit year
UT-STMANNXX	Annotated codes 1998-2004, where XX is 2-digit year

§5 Researching Utah Statutory Law

Sometimes you need to find how a code section read before the current version. Most law libraries keep the superseded volumes of their state code to help researchers with this task.

To trace the history of a statute, consult an **annotated** code – in print or online – and locate the history information provided after the text of the law. The history information helps you determine when language was added to or deleted from the statute, as well as records relating

to the passage of the statute that will help determine its meaning, and will help you find the law as it read before its current version.

Code Version	History Information for §73-3-25
<i>Utah Code Unannotated</i>	2004.
<i>Utah Code Annotated</i>	History: R.S. 1933, 100-3-25, added by L. 1937, ch. 130, § 2; 1941, ch. 96, §1; C. 1943, 100-3-25; L. 1987, ch. 25, § 3; 1987, ch. 161, § 297, 2004 ch. 191, § 3.
<i>West's Utah Code Annotated</i>	Laws 1937, c. 130, § 2; Laws 1941, c. 96, §1; Laws 1987, c. 25, § 3; 1987, c. 161, § 297; Laws 2004 c. 191 § 3, eff. May 3, 2004. Codifications: R.S. 1933, § 100-3-25; C. 1943, § 100-3-25.

Although the abbreviations used in the two annotated codes vary slightly, they both convey the same information:

- This section was originally enacted in 1937 as chapter 130, section 2
- The section previously appeared in the 1933 Revised Statutes as section 100-3-25
- The section was amended in 1941
- The section was amended in 1987 by two different session laws
- The section was amended in 2004

Note that the only statutory history information provided in the *Utah Code Unannotated* is the year of the latest amendment – 2004.

In most cases the history line provides a complete history of the statute from its enactment to its current version. However, statutes can be renumbered, or repealed and re-enacted, and these actions are not always reflected in the history notes. If you think the law existed before the stated enactment date, consult superseded volumes.

Abbreviations used in *Utah Code Annotated* history notes

C.	code
ch.	Chapter
C.L.	Compiled Laws
L.	Laws (i.e. session laws)
R.S.	Revised Statutes
redes. as	Redesignated As
S.S.	Special Session

Abbreviations used in *West's Utah Code Annotated* history notes

C.	code
c.	Chapter
C.L.	Compiled Laws
L.	Laws (i.e. session laws)
R.S.	Revised Statutes
Sp.Sess.	Special Session

§6 Citation Format

Cite to Utah Code Ann. § x (year)